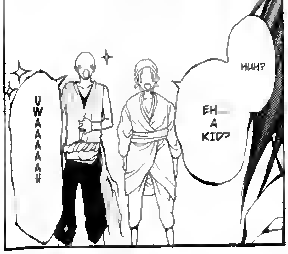
TRANS: SIMPLIFIED
CLEANER: BOMB34MAN
TYPESETTER: DOZER
PROOFREADER: KALLI, KARA-SAN
RAW: UNKNOWN

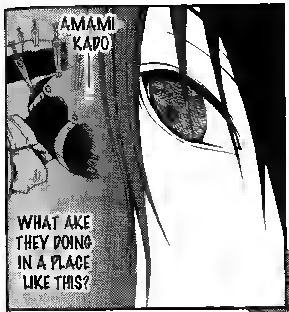
WE'RE IN DIRE NEED OF GRAPHIC DESIGNERS! IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, SEND US AN EMAIL VIA CONTACT US AT THE WEBSITE OR REGISTER AN ACCOUNT TO OUR FORUMS AND APPLY!

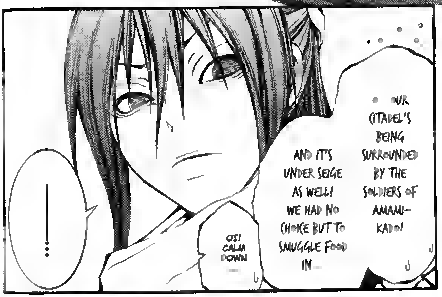
TOBY —
FLY AWAY

一話目のボツ表紙
今更こんな所に出現させてみました。古さが著す
恥ずかしい。でもうでかこの表紙（表のほう）
ゴチャッとして見づらいので"ボツくらったような気がします(つ)
昔からゴチャゴチャしたものがすきだったの工
ほっとくと、なんでもかんでもぶち込み。ごった煮状態の絵に。
その度に執達修正してくれる担当さんに乾杯。

IF WE TAKE THE SHORTCUT, WE'LL REACH THE CITADEL SOON HANG IN THERE!
OUCH! OUCH!
UGH MY HANDS ARE GOING NUMB
HAND OVER THOSE GOODS!
!?
MANE-KADO ...!!
?
ヒュン


HUH?
EH... A KID?
UWAAAAAAH!


AMAMI KADO
WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?


!!!
OI! CALM DOWN...
AND IT'S UNDER SIEGE AS WELL! WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SMUGGLE FOOD IN...
OUR CITADEL'S BEING SURROUNDED BY THE SOLDIERS OF AMAMI-KADO!

TH... THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SAVING US!

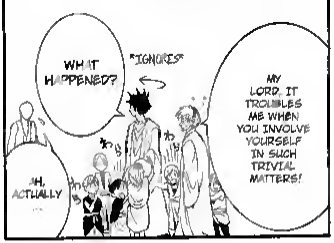
WE KNOW THAT THIS IS RATHER SHAMELESS ON OUR PART, BUT PLEASE HELP US!
PLEASE HELP US DEFEND OUR CITADEL !!
PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU! LEND US YOUR SKILLS!

ONIGA CITADEL!
THIS IS OUR HOME.
REALLY, I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH
THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE ABLE TO AVOID COMPLETE STARVATION FOR THE TIME BEING!
TAI-MA
AFTER THE TAIMA KINGDOM WAS ERADICATED, AMAMI-KADO'S TROOPS SUDDENLY SURROUNDED US. IT WAS SUCH A SHOCK.
HEY, WAIT!

YOU THERE! WHAT ARE YOU EATING?!
BLEH
HOT! HOT!
IT BURNS YOUR MOUTH WHEN YOU EAT IT!!
TO THINK I WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO BRING IT HERE FROM THE SECRET GRANARY OUTSIDE THE CITADEL!
EH? BUT I TOLD YOU!
IT HAS A HIGH SALT CONTENT
EATING IT WILL CAUSE QUITE A SCRAMBLE FOR PRECIOUS WATER, I GUESS.
WHAT ...?
SEE? IT'S OK YOU!

I DOUBT THAT'S THE CASE. BUT IT SEEMS TO BE A TARGET.
THE CULPRIT MUST HAVE A SCREW LOOSE IN HIS HEAD.
PERHAPS THE GRANARY IS ALREADY IN THE HANDS OF AMAMI-KADO.
SOMEHOW I FEEL THAT YUKINE RATHER IRRITATING.
EH?, HOW UNFORGIVING...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S THE SAME FOR YOU!!
YOU'RE SO NOT LIKE MY FRIEND!!
さわ
さわ
MY LORD! PLEASE WAIT!!
MY LORD!!
YOUR GRACE!

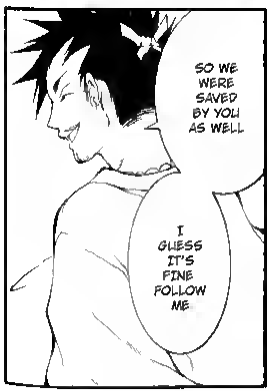
THANK YOU FOR THAT.
NO, YOU GUYS DID EXTREMELY WELL.

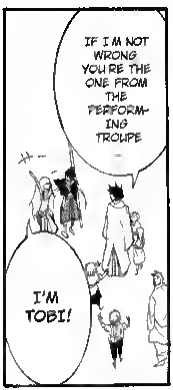

WHAT HAPPENED?
"IGNORES"
MY LORD, IT TROUBLES ME WHEN YOU INVOLVE YOURSELF IN SUCH TRIVIAL MATTERS!
UH, ACTUALLY...

N-NO! IT'S DUE TO OUR INCOMPETENCE IS WELL!
IS THAT SO? I OFFER MY APOLOGIES FOR THAT...

I AM THE LORD OF ONIGA CITADEL, KAHARA
I'D LIKE TO PROPERLY EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE SO WOULD YOU PLEASE FOLLOW ME TO THE CASTLE?
MY LORD?

MY LORD
"THUD"
ARE YOU THE ONE WHOM THEY ASKED TO BE THEIR ESCORT?


SO WE WERE SAVED BY YOU AS WELL
I GUESS IT'S FINE FOLLOW ME


IF I'M NOT WRONG YOU'RE THE ONE FROM THE PERFORMING TROUPE
I'M TOBI!

IT'S OKAY, I...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! IS IT OKAY IF I TAG ALONG?!

I SEE, I SEE!
SO THEY TRANSPORTED THE FOOD FROM A HIDDEN GRANARY!
フフフフ
AND THERE WE HAVE IT, THE PERFECT PLAN
AMAMIKADO EASTERN WAR FRONT COMMANDING OFFICER
-NIGORI-
AND IN DOING SO THE PAIN WILL WORSEN BIT BY BIT
JUST TO FILL THEIR STOMACHS, EVEN BY A LITTLE
THEY WILL LET THEIR BURNING THROATS RUN DRY

IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN TAIMA AND AMAMIKADO, OUR COUNTRY TOOK A NEUTRAL STAND.
THE MOMENT THE WAR ENDED, WE FOUND OUR CITADEL SURROUNDED
I THINK THEY INTENDED TO USE US AS A WARNING TO OTHER COUNTRIES.
YOU'RE OGUNA, RIGHT?
THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY PEOPLE FROM THE SOLDIERS OF AMAMIKADO
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY TO ESCAPE FROM THE CITADEL?
—I'M AFRAID NOT THE ONLY WAY OUT IS THE MOUNTAIN ROUTE USED TO TRANSPORT FOOD IN
EVEN IF WE ESCAPED FROM THERE
IT WON'T BE DIFFICULT FOR THE TROOPS OF AMAMIKADO TO HUNT DOWN ALL OF YOU!
YEAH

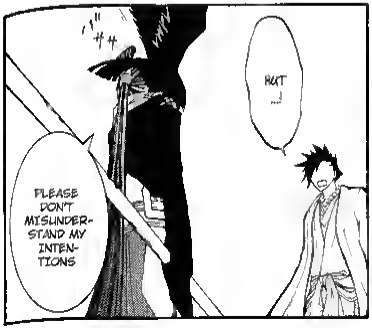
BECAUSE REBUILDING OUR CITADEL REQUIRES PEOPLE, WHO ARE IRRE-PLACEABLE
IF I CAN, I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE DIES WHILE ESCAPING
THAT'S A VERY NAIVE WAY OF THINKING
LIKE TAIMA'S GENERAL TATARA
HE WAS A BRAVE WARRIOR
HAHA IS THAT SO?
I GET THAT REMARK EVEN FROM MY FRIENDS
MAYBE I WAS JUST ENVIOUS
TATARA

I WANTED TO BE STRONG.
ENVIOUS OF THAT GUY'S STRENGTH AS A WARRIOR
AND HIS UNWAVERING PRIDE
IN THE PAST, IT WAS FOR THE SAKE OF MY FATHER...
NOW, IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF DEFEATING HIM...

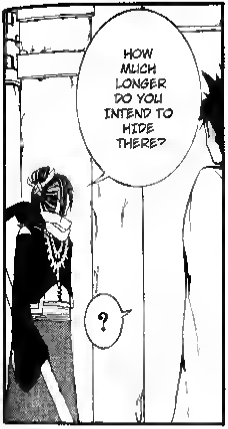
.....
DO TELL US IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
WHAT A STUB-BORN GIRL SHE IS! I'LL HAVE MY PEOPLE SEARCH FOR HER LATER
SHE TOTTERED OFF ELSE-WHERE ALONG THE WAY
HM? WHERE DID THAT GIRL GO?
SO, SHALL WE MOVE ON?
YOUR PEOPLE ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO YOU RIGHT?
YOU'RE OUR BENE-FACTOR
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK
YEAH WITHOUT THE PEOPLE, I WOULDN'T BE HERE
I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'M WEAK
EVERYONE TOO. WE ALL CAN'T LIVE ON BY OURSELVES.

I WILL SURVIVE.
EVEN IF I'M ALONE ...
YOU'RE STRONG, THAT'S WHY

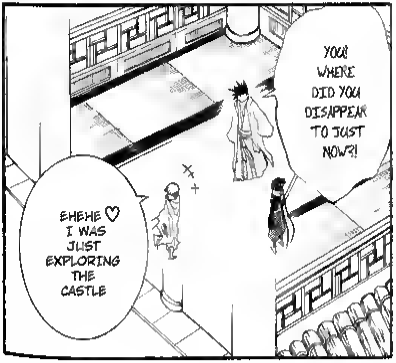
ASSEMBLE THE ARMY! OPEN THE FRONT GATES AND PREPARE FOR ENEMY ASSAULT!
IN THE MEAN TIME, GET THE WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND VILLAGERS OUT THROUGH THE SHORTCUT!
...YOU'RE PREPARED TO DIE?
EVEN SO, AS THE CITADEL LORD,
I'LL MEET MY END BY SACRIFICING MY LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE LIKE A TRUE WARRIOR
IN ANY CASE, I'LL LIKE TO EXPRESS MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING SPECIAL
HAHA, DON'T PUT IT THAT WAY
I DON'T WANT TO DRAG YOU AND TOBI INTO THIS
I'LL FIND A SUITABLE TIME TO LET YOU LEAVE THE CITADEL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
IF ONLY YOU WERE THE KING OF AMAMIKADO


PLEASE DON'T MISUNDER-STAND MY INTEN-TIONS
HUH ...!

I'LL JOIN THE FIGHT TOO
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
?


HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU INTEND TO HIDE THERE?
?

I SIMPLY CANNOT FORGIVE WHAT AMAMIKADO DID, JUST LIKE ALL OF YOU.
HI-HI-


YOU! WHERE DID YOU DISAPPEAR TO JUST NOW?!
EHEHE♡ I WAS JUST EXPLORING THE CASTLE

AHH CRAP~~ I'VE BEEN FOUND OUT
GRINS

GAMBLE?
ARE YOU A BIRD MESSENGER?
YOUR GRACE, IT MUST BE A LAST RESORT TO HAVE TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GAMBLE WITH ME?
NO, IT JUST CONVENIENTLY ATTACHED ITSELF TO ME.
...AH, NEVER MIND! YOU'RE SKILLFUL. PLUS YOUR BODY SEEMS REALLY LIGHT.
YOU'LL BE THE LEAD ACTOR.
...LEAD ACTOR?
WELL, THEN, LET'S GET BUSY.
WE'LL TWIST THE WILLPOWER OF AMAMIKADO AND SCARE THE CRAP OUT OF THE GENERAL

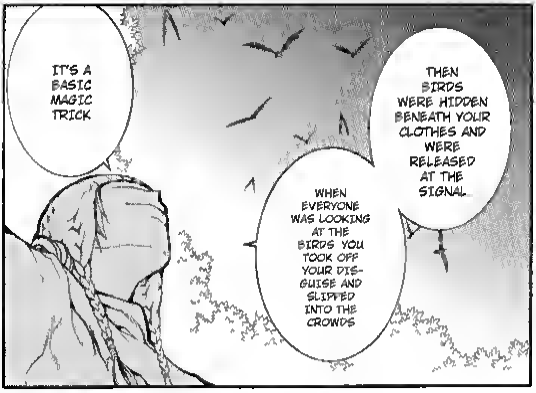
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
TSK TSK
OH... GOOH...
THE CURSE OF THE GREAT BIRD HAS BEFALLEN ONIGA CITADEL.
THE CITADEL LORD, KAHARA, HE HAS SLAIN THE DIVINE ENTITY, THE DARK RAVEN.
HUH?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
HE MUST HAVE A LOOSE SCREW IN HIS HEAD OR SOMETHING!
GOAH...!
THOSE WHO DON'T BELIEVE IN THE GREAT BIRD WILL BE CURSED!!
GOL
AUH
O... OI

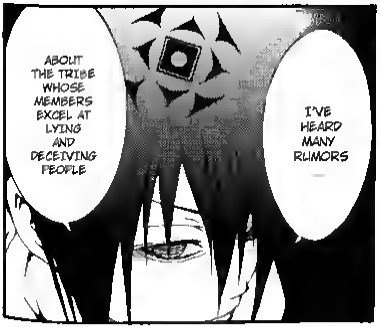
WHAT
!!?
WHAT?!
WHAT THE HELL HAP-PENED?!

HMPH... I DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU.
I MERELY CHANGED MY VOICE AND APPEARANCE TO FIT A PILGRIM, JUST LIKE YOU SAID.

AHH... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO GOOD AT PLAYS TOO! I'VE CHANGED MY OPINION OF YOU. ♪

YOU'RE A "TRICKSTER" RIGHT?
!


IT'S A BASIC MAGIC TRICK
THEN BIRDS WERE HIDDEN BENEATH YOUR CLOTHES AND WERE RELEASED AT THE SIGNAL.
WHEN EVERYONE WAS LOOKING AT THE BIRDS YOU TOOK OFF YOUR DISGUISE AND SLIPPED INTO THE CROWDS

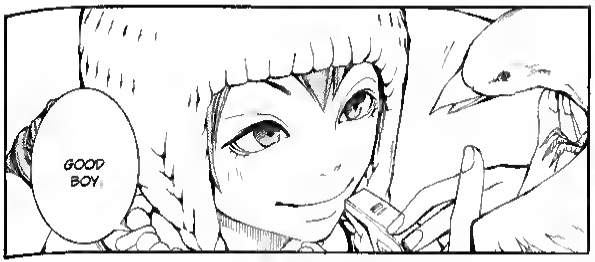

ABOUT THE TRIBE WHOSE MEMBERS EXCEL AT LYING AND DECEIVING PEOPLE
I'VE HEARD MANY RUMORS

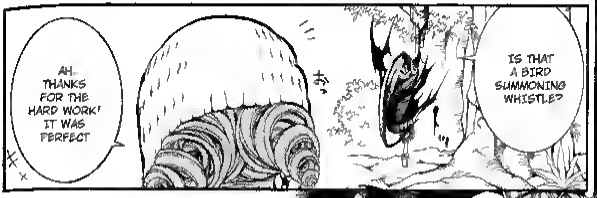
YOU REALLY DO KNOW YOUR STUFF
BUT CURRENTLY WE'RE JUST A TRAVELING TROUPE

YOU'RE RIGHT IF WE CAN, WE WANT TO SURVIVE USING OUR WORDS AND NOT BY KILLING PEOPLE
A BURDENED WAY OF LIVING JUST DOESN'T SUIT US I GUESS
AREN'T YOU ENVI-OUS?
NOT REALLY
WELL THEN! THERE'S ONE LAST THING TO DO
PLEASE COOPERATE WITH ME, MY LORD.

TELL THOSE SOLDIERS THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES THOSE STUPID RUMORS WILL HAVE THEIR HEADS BROUGHT TO ME...
SHUT UP! ALL OF YOU!
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL THE CURSE CAN BE REAL!
THE CURSE IS REAL?
IT MEANS IT'S TRUE
UH, WHO'S THAT?
WHEN DID YOU ...?!
THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN GOD ...
WILL FACE HIS WRATH, JUST LIKE THE PEOPLE IN THE ONIOA CITADEL
HE WHO HAS LITTLE ROOM IN HIS HEART FOR FAITH...
HMPH ...

ONIGA CITADEL ...
RISKS THE CURSE OF THE GREAT BIRD!

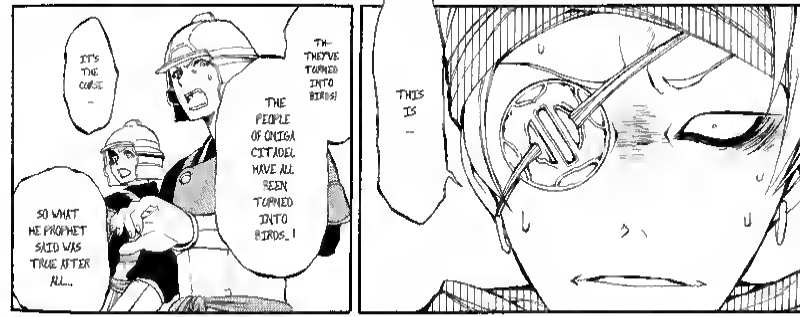

GOOD BOY.

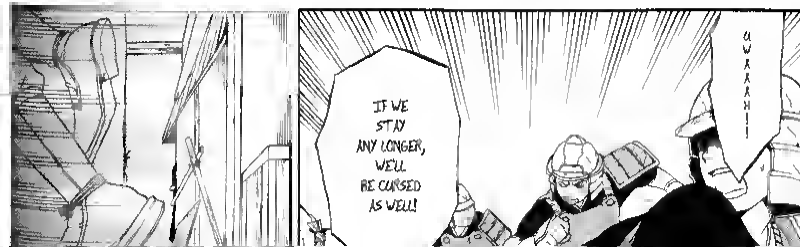

AH. THANKS FOR THE HARD WORK! IT WAS FERFECT
IS THAT A BIRD SUMMONING WHISTLE?

NO JUST FROM RUMORS
YOU KNEW HIM?
HE'S ONE OF THE TOUGHER ONES IN THE AMAMIKAMI ARMY
IT WAS NECESSARY FOR ME TO THREATEN THAT GUY TO THAT EXTENT ....
OGUNA

NAH, NEVER MIND
THE TIME IS RIPE!
HMMM ...

!!
ONLY THE FINISHING TOUCHES ARE LEFT...
FOOL! THAT'S ABSURD!
GATHER THE TROOPS! WE'RE ADVANCING INTO ONIGA CITADEL!!
NIGORI-SAMA! IT'S THE CURSE! THE GREAT BIRD'S CURSE!
LOOK AT THE NUMBER OF BIRDS IN THE CITADEL!
IT CAN'T BE...
NIGORI-SAMA! THE CITY GATE'S NOT BOLTED!
WHAT?!
IT CAN'T POSSIBLY EXIST, CAN IT...?
SUCH A THING AS A CURSE

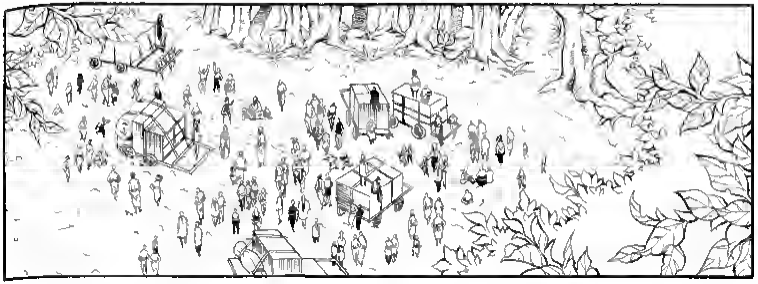

TH-THEY'VE TURNED INTO BIRDS!
THE PEOPLE OF ONIGA CITADEL HAVE ALL BEEN TURNED INTO BIRDS...!
IT'S THE CURSE...
SO WHAT THE PROPHET SAID WAS TRUE AFTER ALL...
THIS IS...

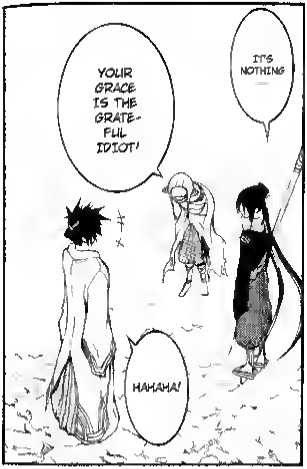

IF WE STAY ANY LONGER, WE'LL BE CURSED AS WELL!
UWAAAH!!

THEY ESCAPED THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN ROUTE
AS LONG AS THESE SOLDIERS DON'T CHASE AFTER THEM, WE SHOULD ALL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE SAFELY
THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY MAGNIFICENT
WHERE'S EVERYONE?
YOUR GRACE, WE HAVE TO HURRY
STOP RIGHT THERE! ALL OF YOU!
THE CONFUSED OFFICER AND HIS SUBORDINATES HAVE ALL BEEN FORCIBLY SUPPRESSED
SO IF YOU JOLT THEM A LITTLE THEY'LL START COMING APART AT THE SEAMS, YA' KNOW?
TCH! THAT PERSISTENT IDIOT
KAHARA AND HIS PEOPLE HAVE ESCAPED!
AFTER THEM!!
I WILL BEHEAD ANY SOLDIER WHO RUNS!

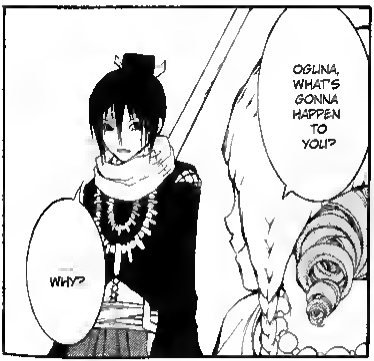
SFX: BURST
WHA...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU...?

I AM THE GHOST OF THE DARK RAVEN ...
SFX: SLASH
A!
DO ALL OF YOU WISH TO MEET THE SAME FATE?
SFX: UWAAAAAH!




IT'S NOTHING
YOUR GRACE IS THE GRATEFUL IDIOT!
HAHAHA!

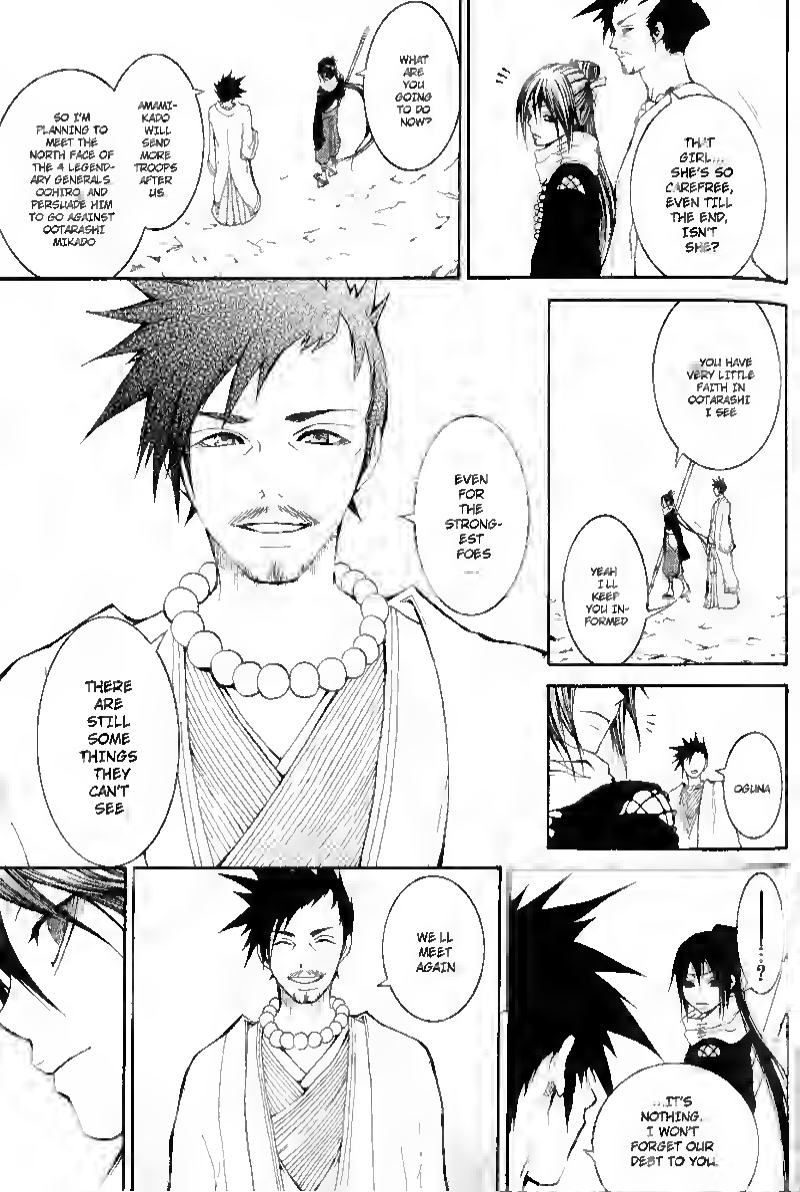
IT'S THANKS TO BOTH OF YOU THAT EVERYONE WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE SAFELY.
YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE.


OGUNA, WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO YOU!?
WHY?

TOBI! WE'RE LEAVING!
OH!
IT'S TIME TO GO ALREADY?

IF YOU WANT TO, YOU CAN COME WITH US!
NO THANKS.
I'M BETTER WITH A SWORD THAN WITH WORDS.
MY PATH IS DIFFERENT FROM YOURS
IS THAT SO?
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED THEN

OGUNA! SMILE MORE, OKAY?
YOU'LL BE A BETTER MAN THAT WAY!
CHUU~
TO GO ON LIVING WITHOUT KILLING OTHERS
THE TRICK-STERS, HUH?


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
AMAMI-KADO WILL SEND MORE TROOPS AFTER US.
SO I'M PLANNING TO MEET THE NORTH FACE OF THE 4 LEGENDARY GENERALS, OCHIRO, AND PERSUADE HIM TO GO AGAINST OOTARASHI MIKADO
!!!
TH'T GIRL... SHE'S SO CAREFREE, EVEN TILL THE END, ISN'T SHE?
YOU HAVE VERY LITTLE FAITH IN OOTARASHI I SEE
YEAH I'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED
EVEN FOR THE STRONGEST FOES ...
THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS THEY CAN'T SEE
OGUNA
WE'LL MEET AGAIN
...?
...IT'S NOTHING. I WON'T FORGET OUR DEBT TO YOU.

I WANT TO SURVIVE WITHOUT KILLING ANYONE.
EVERYONE AND I, TOO, WE ALL CANNOT LIVE ON BY OURSELVES.
EVEN SO
NOW,
THIS PATH AHEAD OF ME——!!

KILL ALL THOSE WHO ESCAPED!
THEY WENT THAT WAY!
UH- WHAT'S THAT ...?
...A BIRD?
IS THE GENERAL OKAY?!
SHIT..! WHERE DID THEY GO?
CHIP
GENERAL ...!